

the Norfolk Bee

DECEMBER 2021 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

DEC. 6, 2021

7:30 to 9:00 pm

Hosted via Zoom Meeting

An email will be sent with a meeting invite. This will include a meeting ID # and a password.

In advance of the meeting, please download and install the free Zoom app to your computer, phone or tablet. If this is new technology for you, perhaps you can do a test meeting with a friend.

<https://vimeo.com/616977404>

Dear Beekeepers,

I can't believe Thanksgiving is behind us and the holiday season is upon us!

I hope that all your bees are nestled in for the winter and you have made your wish list for the holiday season. For Christmas this year I want a Nectar Detector and a bunch of Broodminder Temp Monitors (*wink, wink*). Kidding aside, I got to use a nectar detector for the first time this year. Really help me manage my hives going into the winter. I used to love getting all the bee catalogs in January and pursuing them for all the new gadgets. I know I have more equipment than I will ever need, but what beekeeper doesn't. I think it comes with the territory.

Massachusetts Beekeepers Association had their board meeting this past week. I encourage everyone to join. They host 3 major events each year. I also encourage people to get involved. There are areas that they need help in and what better way of giving back than volunteering for one of their committees. If you are interested, please contact me directly.

I hope that everyone is safe and well during the winter, and hopefully in the Spring, we will be able to get together in person.

See you all at the holiday party on December 1st!

Your, always in beekeeping,



Renew your membership!

This is a reminder that it is time to renew your membership. By doing so you will continue receiving valuable information from the other club members, the monthly newsletter, access to monthly zoom meetings and other important information. So far of the 638 members 169 have renewed.

There are now two ways to pay your members' dues:

1. Go to <https://www.norfolkbees.org/membership.html> and renew your membership on our secure website using your credit card. (this is the easiest and preferred way)

2. Go to norfolkbees.org and download the membership application form, fill it out and send it along with your check to our post office box listed on the applications.

It is important that you renew your membership before December 31, 2021. The membership committee will be cleaning house on the Google group email list and Facebook page on January 1, 2022. You must be a paid member to be included in both of these groups after December 31st.

If you are wondering whether you have renewed, email Dana Wilson at dwilson831@gmail.com to find out.



News from the Landing Board

NCBA BOARD MEMBERS

2020-2022:

PRESIDENT

Tony Lulek

VICE PRESIDENT

Dana Wilson

TREASURER

Stephen Green

RECORDING SECRETARY

Edward Rock

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Kevin Keane

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Carin Cohen, Joel Richards,
and Jenna Tibbetts

NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Tony Lulek

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Dana Wilson

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Ed Szymanski

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Marian Szymanski

NCBA TECH GURU

Greg Rushton

APPAREL

Lauralyn Smith

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE

Kathy Varney

HOSPITALITY

Rose Thornton and Carin Cohen

EXTRACTORS

Brianda Younie

MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE

Rose Thornton

Deb Spielman

LIBRARIAN

Michael Simone

PROGRAMS

Ed and Marian Szymanski

The December 6th Meeting Agenda

Holiday Party! The annual December Holiday Party will be via Zoom again this year, but this year we want to stretch the digital envelope to create a *mite-y* fun time.



Bring your favorite cocktail or mocktail and share the recipe. Brush up on your bee knowledge and join in on the trivia game. There will be lots of door prizes as well!

We have a number of members who sell bee-related items and the December meeting was a good way for them to sell these items, and a good way for members to buy gifts for their friends and family (and themselves).

We will have our vendors share their screens for a few minutes, show their wares, website, and ordering info. People can shop with them in the days right after the meeting, and items can be shipped or picked up in time for the Holidays.

Anyone who would like to have their bee-related business featured in our virtual vendor fair, please contact Ed Szymanski ASAP.

A look ahead... Future Meeting Agendas

January: Bumblebees! The C-5 Galaxy cargo aircraft of the bee world, Bumblebees are often misunderstood, underappreciated, and in danger. Learn about these important environmental insects and the role they play.

Is it Spring yet?

by Ed Szymanski

Well no, but now that we're in our beekeeping hiatus, we can think about garden planning for next year. Our bees will begin rearing brood by February - wouldn't it be nice to have some natural pollen available? These plants can be planted anytime as long as the ground can still be worked.

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis spp*)
Witch Hazels provide a glimmer of color on a cold winter day. The earliest blooming shrub in the Northeast,



Witch Hazels can be a significant source of early spring pollen, if it's warm enough for the bees to get out

(Please turn to page 3)

Thank you to the 25, 15, 10, and 5 Year Members

The NCBA board would like to thank the members who had their 5th, 10th, 15th, and 25th year anniversary in 2021. It is because of members such as these that make the club strong. They bringing a wealth of information and expertise to the club.

In the past awards and certificates were handed out at the Club meeting in September. As we all have experienced this year continues to be different. Even though we will not be meeting as a group, and the board will not be able to personally thank you, the board still wants to recognize these members.

25 Year Members

Jackie Chados
Richard Kramer

15 Year Members

Laura Kurzontkowski
Paul LaShoto
Andy Tomolonis
Valerie Tomolonis

10 Year Members

Hope Boundaway
Judy Cox
Craig Moore
Jennifer Morton

John Morton
Steven Phinney
Nicole Wiemeyer
Scott Wilson
Seth Wilson
Dana Wilson

5 Year Members

Gail Almquist
Mark Almquist
Rhealynne Almquist
Janice Barczys
Michael Barczys
Mary Chmielecki
Kerstin Cody
Debbie Colella
John Colella
Jim Darragh
Gail DeAcetis
Wendy Doyle
William Dunning

Cat Dunning
Michael Festa
Mark Francis
Jan Geiger
Pamela Gianetti
Gordon Goldberger
Eve Hyde
Jonathan Kaplan
Maureen Kaplan
Sean Keenan
Barry Key
Maria King
Ben King

Gillian Kruskall
Cathy Leonard
Richard Leonard
Joseph Leonardi
Lori Leonardi
Allen Manheim
Janet Manheim
Andrew Moore
Ted Mosher
Colleen Neutra
Thomas Pilis
Katie Piper
Dan Pope

Sandee Richards
Kevin Shale
Jeannie Smith
Mason Smith
Christine St. Jean
Peg Tamiso
James Taylor
Michael Taylor
John Urrea
Julia Urrea
Elizabeth Vincent
Bob William

(Continued from page 2)

and forage. Most of the other early pollen sources are bulbs, so when a spring snowstorm buries the bulbs, Witch Hazels are there for the bees on a sunny day as the snow melts. Hamamelis x Intermedia hybrids come in pink, purple and multi-color flowered. The purists prefer the straight yellow-flowered varieties.

Spring Bulbs

Spring bulbs can provide early pollen just as brood rearing is starting. We recently discovered Pushkinia, or striped squill (not Siberian Squill)

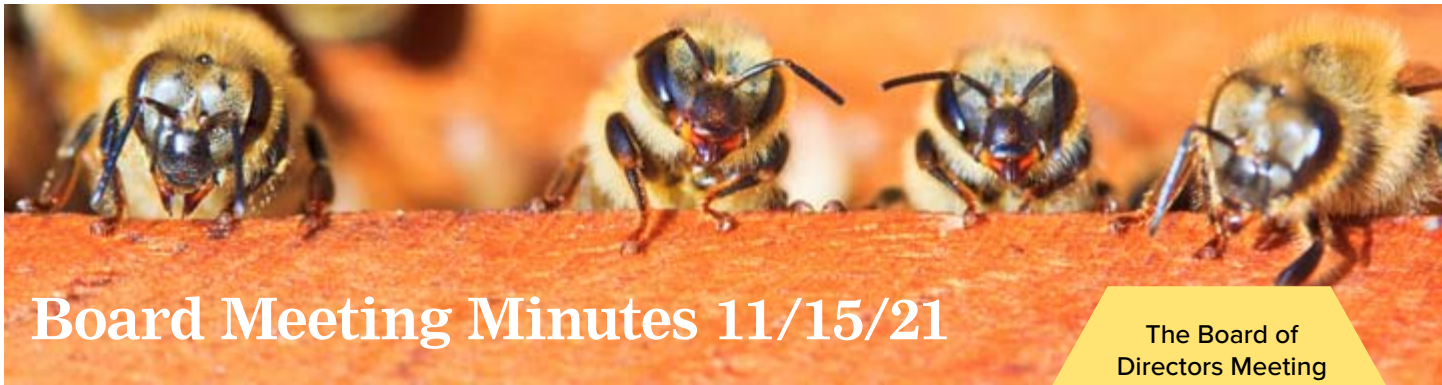


and planted a quantity of the bulbs. They started blooming mid-March and provided pollen for 2 weeks. Siberian squill is one of just a few flowers that produce blue pollen. Newer beekeepers get a surprise during their early spring inspections when they find blue pollen



in cells. It's always great to see bees in the spring garden with their corbiculae packed in blue. Grape Hyacinths bloom from mid-April into May and provide both pollen and nectar. Each little "cup" that makes up the flower

(Continued on page 5)



Board Meeting Minutes 11/15/21

NCBA BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 15, 2021

7:30 to 8:30 pm

Attending:

- Tony Lulek
- Dana Wilson
- Ed Szymanski
- Stephan Greene
- Ed Rock
- Joel Richards
- Greg Rushton
- Brianda Younie
- Michael Simone
- Vickie Rellas
- Janice Loving
- Kara Sullivan
- Deborah Spielman
- Caroline Johnson

President's Update – Tony L

- Old & New Business
 - Welcome Michael Simone as new Club Library coordinator
 - Pay Archie Acevedo for 5 Queens from the club sponsored queen program
 - Setting up parameters for the NCBA NUC program
 - Holiday Party notes:
- Trivia contest
- Bee and Honey related drinks
- Lots of door prizes and gift certificates

Vice President's Update – Dana

- Nothing new.

Treasurer Update – Stephen

- Bank balance \$40,430.72 as of 11/1/2021
- Three financial reports accepted.

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R

- Nothing new

Corresponding Secretary – Kevin Keane

- Nothing new – articles due by 11/17 for newsletter

Committees:

- Programs – Ed S and Marion
 - December meeting planning has started
 - Looking for folks to be vendors of holiday bee merchandize
 - Looking for Bumble Bee session for January Club Meeting (may be a lead at Garden in the Woods)
- Intro to Bee School – Tony
 - Registration - 62 sign-ups so far (many from Worcester, Plymouth, and interestingly – Zimbabwe)
 - All Norfolk County bee school participants will receive mentors, but

The Board of Directors Meeting is the third Monday of each month.

It's held at 7:00pm via a Zoom Video Meeting.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

we can't assure folks outside the county will receive mentors.

- Starts up January 25th, 2022 (Tuesdays) – 10 Classes
 - **Intermediate Bee School** – Ed & Marion (FYI – First Class in 2021 starting in March – Zoom-Based)
 - Registration will open in January 2022
 - Start classes in March 2022
 - **Extractors** – Brianda
 - No updates – folks are still extracting
 - **Library** – Michael Simone
 - Michael Simone will be taking over for Janice and Mike
 - Some ideas
 - Possibly developing a “lending Library box” that folks can visit
 - Possibly start mailing books out to folks (develop a monthly mailing budget)...with return envelopes
 - Michael will work with Janice and Mike to consider possible solutions to share the library with members
 - **Door Prizes** – Kara
 - November door prizes were sent
 - We'll be tracking winners to see who's winning from month to month (we will limit to winning 2 times a year)
 - Kara will explore Barker's, Woods, Better Bee, Franklin Agway – they are
- (Continued on page 5)*

(Board meeting minutes, continued from page 4)

local – try to have the gift cards coming from them vs generic VISA

- Website – Greg
 - New – we have a Google Nonprofit account now – exploring its functionality before we go live.
 - Check on updated calender items
 - Bee School and Membership forms have been updated and look good.
 - Consider scheduling opening the scholarship for Cornell and queen rearing
- **Membership – Facebook – Google Groups** - Rose & Deb
 - 169 updated memberships
 - Facebook – only paid members
 - Verification on Awards for 5,10,15,and 25 year Club membership
- **Bee Apparel** - Lauralyn
 - Nothing New
- **Calendar Committee** – Jenna Tibbetts
 - Nothing New
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Michael Simone named new Librarian

Congratulations to Michael Simone who has volunteered to be the new NCBA Librarian. As librarian, Michael will curate the book collection, manage and track borrowing, and steward the ancient archives of clay tablets owned by the club. If you have any requests for new titles, please contact Michael.



An excerpt from one of our ancient tablets, "Bee-keeping in Mesopotamia for Dummies"

(Continued from page 3)



contains a small drop of nectar.

Other significant spring bulbs are Crocus, Snowdrops, and

Chionodoxa

(Glory-of the Snow). Crocuses may need to be protected from rodents, but the others are pretty much varmint-resistant.



Hellebore

Hellebore (Helleborus spp.), also called Lenten Rose, is the earliest

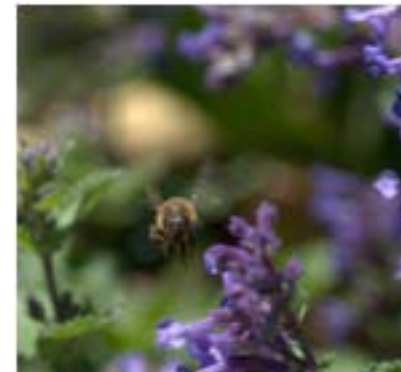


flowering perennial in our area. In the right weather conditions, they can bloom in early to mid-March. They are frost tolerant, and can even be planted in light shade. They flower in a variety of colors from ivory to yellow to pink to a very deep red. For

a perennial that provides early season pollen, you can't beat Hellebores.

Catmint

Catmint (Nepeta spp.) is another early spring perennial that will bloom starting in April and can go until October, especially if



you shear off the spent blossoms. Honey bees and bumblebees can't leave it alone. Flowers are blue to purple and the foliage is an attractive gray-green color. Fassen's Catmint (Nepeta Fassenii) is particularly easy to grow from seed, even flowering the first year! Catmint will spread, but can easily be controlled. It can tolerate some foot traffic and works well in paths and between stepping stones. Catmint can also be planted in light shade, under trees and shrubs, and will still perform well.

There are plenty of times when food is abundant out in the bees foraging area – the flowering trees and shrubs provide a more than adequate food supply. But the early spring is one time when beekeepers can plant to really help our bees with nutrition when it is badly needed.



Looking for a local printer for all your bee product needs?

Look no further!

At Giant Pro Graphics, our goal is to make everything simple and painless for you. We offer our guidance through every step of the production process and are ready to answer any questions you may have honestly and quickly. We know that large print jobs can be an intimidating process, so we make sure to deliver aesthetically pleasing, flawless banners and signs as quickly as possible for you and your business.

What you can do with GPG:

- ✓ Branded lawn signs for your apiary or farm
✓ Personalized/branded stickers for honey bottles and other products
✓ Custom "No Spraying" signs for your front lawn
✓ Small banners for your storefront
✓ Large banners for your events
✓ Counter easels, display signs, handouts, or brochures for your customers
✓ Branded signs for your friends and family
✓ And more!

Contact Brittany Murphy at brittany@giantprographics.com



Visit our fully stocked store in Lincoln, Rhode Island or visit our online store at:

www.WoodsBees.com

401-305-2355

info@woodsbees.com

Package Bees & Nucs 2019

We have three delivery dates for packages this spring. Multiple pick-up locations and delivery available for convenience!

5 Frame Nucs available in deep frame and medium frame options.

Pick-up expected late May!

Hive Starter Kits

Assembled & unassembled complete hive kits available for new beekeepers and beekeepers adding a hive!

We also have:

Woodenware, frames, hive components & accessories, hive tools, extracting & bottling equipment, wide selection of protective gear, & much more!

Our store is run by experienced beekeepers who are ready to answer any questions you may have.

Come visit us today!



Barker's Beehive's & Supplies

Stay Local, Support Local, Buy Local

Visit my Online Store

www.barkersbeehives.com

Email: barkersbeehives@gmail.com

(508) 797-7412 – Text or Call – Todd

<http://facebook.com/oxfordfarms>

We sell everything a beekeeper needs!

Full Hives Setups

Hive Kits & Starter Kits

All Woodenware

Frames

Foundation

Feeders

Protective Clothing & Gear

Hive Tools

Pollen Patties w/real protein

Honey Jars

Bee packages, Queens

Medications & Treatments

Onsite mentoring

And more

You name it! I can build it!

I'm not only a Craftsman, also a Beekeeper

All wood is from a local mill

All Pricing is less than or Competitive

All Woodenware Nailed & Glued by hand
no Nail Guns



Franklin Honey Company, Inc.

BUY LOCAL

Custom Built Hive Equipment

www.franklinhoney.com

franklinhoney3@gmail.com

Custom Hive stand and Screened Bottom

Board Built as one piece instead of two separate pieces for stability. They are made with galvanized 1/8" screen and white plastic slide-in tray to count mites. Glued and screwed together for long lasting durability.

Slatted Racks Completely assembled, glued and nailed. This gives the bees more room in the hive on rainy days and when they are all in for the night making them less likely to think about swarming due to crowding.

Supers Made out of pine; with pre-drilled finger joints, and handles cut into boards, comes unassembled. Deep, Medium and Shallow available.

Inner Cover Ventilated, wooden inner cover.

Outer Cover covered with Tin Made from 3/4" exterior plywood, completely assembled, glued and screwed. Cover comes with tin cover to protect from outdoor elements.

Complete Hive Setup Includes screened bottom board, two deep supers, 20 frames with wax foundation, inner cover and outer cover.

Hive Frames—Deep, Medium, and Shallow Wooden frame, made out of pine, held together with 10 nails. (Does not include wire or foundation).



I work with professional marketers and communicators to help promote the companies and brands they work for.
Some of the services I provide are:



Branding services

- Logo design
- Brand over haul
- M&A rebranding
- Brand audits
- Brand management



Print collateral design

- Publication design
- Annual report design
- Campaign design
- Research reports
- Infographics



Advertising & social engagement

- Trade show booth design
- Environmental graphics
- Social media assets
- Traditional advertising

Learn more at: neutra-design.com

NCBA Bee School 2022

Combing through catalogs looking for that perfect gift?

Turns out that a gift to Bee School makes a wonderful holiday gift for all those people who are always interested in *your* hives. This is the nudge they need.

Minimal wrapping is required!

[Order online](#). Best of all, there are no lines, shipping charges, or delays!



Bee School is Coming

Enrollment is now open for Bee School 2022, and already more than a quarter of the seats are taken. It is still under discussion if classes will be all via zoom, in person, or a combination of the two. All classes will take place on Tuesdays. If you know a wanna-bee beekeeper let them know that they ought to sign up soon. Class dates for 2022 are: January 25; February 1, 8, and 15; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HAPPY CHANUKAH!**



**HAPPY
2022!**

